

Permanent
File (70)
1961

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
BRUSH CREEK DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Thursday, Feb. 23, 1961

SUMMARY

The water users of Brush Creek and its tributaries met with representatives of the Utah State Engineer's Office at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 1961 in the Uintah County Courthouse to review the 1960 water distribution and to prepare for the 1961 season.

David R. Ras mussen was recommended to be 1961 water commissioner. Curt D. Durley was elected chairman, and Ray Nash was elected to be secretary of the Brush Creek Distribution System for 1961. A budget and assessment of \$1,580.00 were adopted by the water users to cover distribution expenses for the 1961 season.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer of the State Engineer's Office, opened the meeting and gave a brief summary of the 1961 water supply outlook. He stated that Ashley Creek was forecast to be 90% of Normal, and Brush Creek was forecast to be about 70% of normal, but that these figures would have to be rated downward because normal precipitation had not occurred since the forecast was prepared. The apparent lack of snow cover and precipitation would increase the problems which the commissioner would have to solve. This coming water shortage would make the water users increasingly aware of the commissioners duties and the extent of his activities.

Mr. Norseth read the call of the meeting and introduced the other members of the State Engineer's Office who were present. A list of all those who attended is attached to these minutes.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. DeMarr Dudley, 1960 chairman, who conducted the meeting until the 1961 chairman would be selected.

The 1960 minutes were read by Mr. Norseth, and they were approved as read.

The 1960 Financial Statement was given by Frank Reese, Comptroller, Utah State Engineer's Office. He reported that the net cash on hand for the System was \$65.10 and that \$2.00 had been collected on delinquent accounts. He stated that \$21.18 was still delinquent. A detailed account of the collections and expenditures was given and after discussion of several of the items, the financial report was approved as read.

Mr. Reese said that he had forward 7 copies of the financial report to the chairman, Mr. Dudley, because the other members of the executive committee were unknown to Mr. Reese.

1960 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. David R. Ras mussen of Vernal Utah, Brush Creek Water Commissioner for 1960, reported his activities and the operations of the distribution system for 1960. He stated that he started off the year really green, but he got educated fast. There were a number of misunderstandings that had to be worked out and that things began to happen early. One of the first things that went wrong was on April 16th when the Burns Bench Canal washed out. By the 18th of April he was releasing storage waters from Oaks Park Reservoir, and with the inflow of heavy runoff, the high water got mixed up with the storage. He said that he took the blame for much of the troubles

that happened in the early part of the irrigation season, and he recommended the water users spell out the duties of the commissioner so that he might better understand the job that has to be done. One of these problems arose from the authority to ask for releases from the reservoirs. He said that the reservoir water master should submit the request for releases and not the water users as individuals.

The commissioner stated that by June 18th he had put the creek on the rotation schedule and turn basis. He had some problems of transferring turns, and agreements had to be worked out between the irrigation parties so that no guess work was involved.

The report consisted of a daily record of the flow of the waters of Brush Creek, both natural flow and storage, and what was done with that water in the manner of distribution from the main channel of the creek.

R e c o m m e n d a t i o n s

Mr. Ra smussen submitted several recommendations on how to improve the distribution system for 1961:

1. Better communications, coming face to face to work out water problems.
2. Improve diversion point methods of controls and installing the proper measuring devices.
3. 2 or 3 ft. parshall flumes on Little Brush Creek, above and below the ranches.
4. Make sure that everyone understands the division of water according to water rights and the distribution schedule.
5. Go on turns as soon as necessary.
6. Transfer turns only if commissioner is informed and the proper agreements are made.
7. More detailed study on the creek before Sunshine Ranches turns out water from East Park, more accurate records needed before releases are made.
8. Study the channel loss and return flow to more effectively divide on the schedule basis.
9. Closer relations between Brush Creek users and Ashley Valley Reservoir Co. to set up a committee to watch the operation and to advise the commissioner and make recommendations to the state engineer.
10. The commissioner's travel and expenses should be in accord with what is to be done and how much regulation is wanted.
11. More meetings between the water users to work out problems on the creek, so that bad feelings will not develop.

The commissioner said that his report contained USGS records of stream flow and his own personal records of water distribution on Brush Creek.

Mr. Hugh Colton said that it was the best report he had seen on the administration of Brush Creek since 1896, and he pointed out that a copy should be filed with the district court.

Mr. Hubert Lambert, Deputy State Engineer, said that several copies had been given to the State Engineer by the commissioner and that a copy would be filed with the court, and that water rights still need to be settled on Brush Creek; these reports would be of very great value to the water users.

After lengthy discussion concerning the commissioner's report and the causes of some of the distribution problems, it was moved by N. J. Meagher, Jr., and seconded by Hugh Colton that the report be accepted and that Mr. Ra smussen be commended for services to the water users. Motion carried.

The group discussed the organization of the Brush Creek Distribution System under an association with articles or bylaws to show how the water users would be represented. No formal organization was presented, but an executive committee of the Brush Creek water users was elected as follows:

1. Archie Allen...Oaks Park Reservoir Co.
2. N. J. Maegher, Jr....Sunshine Canal and East Park Res.
- Chairman.....3. Curt D. Dudley....Burns Bench Canal
4. Glenn Murray...Burton Ditch
5. Bill Karen...Murray Ditch
6. Martin Evans...Lower Brush Creek
7. Robert Shiner...Upper Brush Creek
8. Woodey B. Searle...Little Brush Creek Users.

Ray Nash, Secretary

Mr. Nash was appointed to be secretary of the executive committee, but with no voting voice in the affairs of the committee.

1961 Commissioner

Mr. David R. Rasmussen submitted an application for the job of water commissioner and was recommended to the state engineer for reappointment to that office. Mr. Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, said that he would be happy to forward that recommendation to Mr. Cridle, State Engineer, and that Mr. Rasmussen had done a fine job during the 1960 season.

1961 B U D G E T

The following budget was set up to cover the costs of distribution for 1961:

Commissioner's Salary	\$1,066.00
Social Security at 3%	32.00
Travel (4,000 miles at \$.10/mi)	400.00
Bonds and insurance	25.00
Commissioner's Annual Report	35.00
Miscellaneous expenses	22.00
Total	\$1,580.00

1961 Assessment

The water users voted to assess themselves a total of \$1,580.00 for 1961 on the following assessment formula:

Brush Creek users	X amount	or \$1,373.91
Ashley Valley res.	.10X amount	or 137.39
Little Brush users	.05X amount	or 68.70
1.15 X		= \$1,580.00

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the chairman. A list of those attending the meeting is attached to these minutes.

Minutes submitted by Clarence E. Erickson, Jr.
Distribution Engineer

N A M E

R E P R E S E N T I N G

Donald C. Norseth

Clarence E. Erickson, Jr.

Frank Reese

T. Vinton Smith

Richard R. Pexton

Robert F. Guy

Woodey B. Searle

C. D. Dudley

Adair Brimhall

Ezra L. Stewart

M. Harden Nelson

Merle Morse

L. Glenn Murray

Howard Ainge

Sam Sessions

Wilford R. Evans

Robert Shiner

S. J. Hatch

Joseph G. Murray

Archie Allen

Nick Meagher

Hugh W. Colton

Dave Rasmussen

A. D. Dudley

Hubert C. Lambert

Distribution Engineer, Utah State
Engineer's Office

Distribution Engineer

Comptroller, Utah State Engineer's Office

Asst. Business Manager

Accountant

District Engineer(Vernal) State Engineer's
Office.

Little Brush Creek

Burns Bench Irr. Co.

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Burton Ditch Co.

Upper Brush Creek

Little Brush Creek

Upper Brush Creek

Upper Brush Creek

Ashley Res. Co.

Sunshine Ranches

Upper Brush Creek

1960 Water Commissioner

Burns Bench.

Deputy State Engineer

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